(d) whether it is also a fact that during the period of their strike, some of the telephone services remained paralysed;

(e) the nature of demands of the striking telephone operators which have since been accepted by Government; and

(f) the measures taken to see that such strike does not take place in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) There are about 1,082 RTP T.Os. at present.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 15 days—

1. Revision of hourly wages
2. Regularisation of RTP Staff
3. Paid Lunch Break
4. Paid weekly off

(d) The services were only marginally affected.

(e) 1. The hourly wages have been upwardly raised from Rs. 2.75 per hr to Rs. 3.85 per hr.

2. They are entitled for paid weekly off.

3. They are entitled for paid 3 National Holidays.

4. In view of the enhanced rate, no separate payment will be made for Lunch Break.

(f) Their problems are constantly being reviewed and attended.

Autonomous telephone corporations

716. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to establish autonomous telephone corporations for the metropolitan cities; and

(b) if so, which are those metropolitan cities where the corporations will be established and by when these Corporations will come into being?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Government has decided to set up a Public Sector Corporation under the administrative control of the Telecommunications Board for the management of the telephone systems of Union Territory of Delhi and Bombay. This Corporation is expected to start functioning from the financial year 1986-87.

Karnal and Mangalore Refineries

717. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract for setting up of refineries projects at Karnal and Mangalore have since been awarded;

(b) if so, the names of the firms to whom the contract have been given; and

(c) what are the terms and conditions of the contracts and the time by when both the refineries would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Over loading and under billing by Coal India Limited

718. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over years a large number of complaints have been made and cases of over

loading of rakes and under billing have been detected in Coal India Limited due to which there is loss of revenue worth crores of rupees every year; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are propose to be taken by Government to curb such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) There have been complaints about over loading and under loading of wagons in Coal India Limited. However, where wagons are weighed in collieries or Railway Yards and over loading is detected, the consumer has to pay the freight and price of the actual quantity of coal. In the case of non-weighed wagons (mostly Box 'N') the R.R. is made on volumetric basis. There have been complaints mostly of underloading of these wagons. A crash programme of installation of Electronic weighbridges is being taken up on those points where Box 'N' wagons cannot be weighed at present and also on other points where weighbridges are necessary.

Delay in on-going hydel projects

719. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the ongoing hydel projects which have been delayed and the period by which these projects have been delayed at the end of 1985;

(b) what are the major constraints in their completion and by when according to the new assessment these projects are likely to be completed and commissioned;

(c) what is the estimated cost escalation in respect of each of these projects; and

(d) what is the Central machinery, if any, responsible for monitoring the progress in the implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Out of 28 hydro units with a capacity of 1167.5 MW programmed for commissioning during 1985-86, 3 units with a total capacity of 95.5 MW are likely to slip. The delay in commissioning of these units is likely to be about 6 to 9 months which is primarily due to slippages in completion of civil construction and hydro mechanical works. Escalation in cost in respect of these units will be known after the projects are completed. These units are likely to be commissioned during 1986-87.

(d) The Central Electricity Authority is monitoring the implementation of these Projects.

Coal quota for Jammu and Kashmir

720. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quota of coal for Jammu and Kashmir has not been released for the last so many years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that coal issued to brick kilns is of inferior quality causing heavy losses to the owners and for which complaints have already been submitted to Government; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to raise the quota in the near future and arrange to supply superior quality of coal to the brick kilns?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir. The consumer-wise despatches of